

University of Toronto
Department of Economics

ECO 432F/ 2808F: Topics on the economics of the family
Fall 2013

Instructor: Aloysius Siow
Office: 301, 150 St. George St.
Office hours: Wed 4-6 pm

Lectures: F11-1 SS1086

This course **USES MICROECONOMICS & MULTIVARIATE CALCULUS** to study the economics of the family, including marriage, divorce, children, single parenthood and gender roles.

Prerequisite: Eco 200/ [ECO204Y1](#)/[ECO206Y1](#), multivariate calculus

Grading scheme: homework (50%) & final (50%).

Class notes and some readings on blackboard

*** Required readings***

Reading schedule:

Sept 13: Efficient and inefficient investment in children.

Oster, Emily, Ira Shoulson, and E. Dorsey. 2012. "Limited Life Expectancy, Human Capital and Health Investments: Evidence from Huntington Disease." NBER

**Duflo, E. "Grandmothers and granddaughters: Old-age pensions and intrahousehold allocation in South Africa" *The World Bank Economic Review*, 17(2003), 1-25.
<http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTAFRREGTOPGENDER/Resources/duflograndmothers.pdf>

Hongbin Li & Mark Rosenzweig & Junsen Zhang, 2008. "Altruism, Favoritism, and Guilt in the Allocation of Family Resources: Sophie's Choice in Mao's Mass Send Down Movement," <http://ideas.repec.org/p/egc/wpaper/965.html>

**Botticini, M., and A. Siow. 2003. "Why dowries?" *American Economic Review* 93(4): 1385–1398.

Sept 20: Labor supply

Sept 27, Oct 4: Quantity and quality of children

Guinnane, T.W. 2011. "The Historical Fertility Transition: A Guide for Economists." *Journal of Economic Literature* 49(3): 589–614.

Jones, L.E., A. Schoonbroodt, and M. Tertilt. 2008. *Fertility theories: can they explain the negative fertility-income relationship?* National Bureau of Economic Research WP 14266.

**Bailey & Collins: Electrification and the baby boom.
<http://ideas.repec.org/a/aea/aejmac/v3y2011i2p189-217.html>

**Albanesi and Olivetti: Baby boom II. <http://www.nber.org/papers/w16146>

**Josh Lewis: Electrification and children's health

Oct 11: Frictionless transferable utilities model of marriage, positive assortative matching

Choo, E., and A. Siow. 2006. "Who Marries Whom and Why." *Journal of Political Economy* 114(1): 175-201.

Decker, Colin, et. al.. 2011. " UNIQUE EQUILIBRIA AND SUBSTITUTION EFFECTS IN A STOCHASTIC MODEL OF THE MARRIAGE MARKET".
<http://www.math.toronto.edu/mccann/papers/DLMS.pdf>

Siow, A. 2010. "Testing Becker's model of positive assortative matching". University of Toronto manuscript.

Oct 18 Non transferable utility model of the marriage market (Directed Search).

Peter Arcidiacono, et. al., 2011. "Terms of Endearment".. Duke University manuscript.
http://public.econ.duke.edu/~psarcidi/PMP_current_clean3.pdf

Oct 25, Nov 1 Dynamic models of marriage & search friction in marriage markets.

**Stevenson, Betsey and Justin Wolfson (2000), "Till Death do Us Part: Effects of Divorce Laws on Suicides, Domestic Violence and Spousal Murder"
<http://www.nber.org/papers/w10175>

Nov 8: Cognitive and communication skills

**McCann, et. al.. 2011. "Becker meets Ricardo: A Social and Cognitive Skills model of human capabilities.", University of Toronto manuscript.

Nov 15, Nov 22: Gender & Marriage

**Smith, J.P., and M. Ward. 1989. "Women in the Labor Market and in the Family." *The Journal of Economic Perspectives* 3(1): 9–23.

**Ventura, S.J., and C.A. Bachrach. 2000. "Nonmarital childbearing in the United States, 1940–99." *National vital statistics reports* 48(16): 1–40.

**Bailey, M.J., and S.M. Dynarski. 2011. *Gains and Gaps: Changing Inequality in US College Entry and Completion*. National Bureau of Economic Research. wp 17633.

Siow, A. 1998. "Differential Fecundity, Markets, and Gender Roles." *Journal of Political Economy* 106(2): 334-354.

Leung, Tommy and John Dalton. May 2012, [Why is Polygyny More Prevalent in Western Africa? An African Slave Trade Perspective](#)

Erica Field. "Age of menarche, marriage and female education, and Female earnings".
<http://ideas.repec.org/a/ucp/jpolec/v116y2008i5p881-930.html>

Buckles. Delaying infertility and female earnings.
<http://www.nd.edu/~kbuckles/natality.pdf>

Bailey. Pill and Female Earnings.
http://econpapers.repec.org/article/tpqjecon/v_3a121_3ay_3a2006_3ai_3a1_3ap_3a289-320.htm

Nov 29: Cultural diffusion

Alessandra Fogli and Laura Veldkamp. "Nature or Nurture? Learning and the Geography of Female Labor Force Participation", *Econometrica*, July 2011, v.79(4), p.1103-1138.